The infinitive of purpose
Learn how to use the infinitive of purpose

Practise using the infinitive of purpose to make plans
I went to university **to earn** a degree and **to prepare** for a career. I work hard every day at my job **to earn** a promotion.

**In order not to get** bored, I am going to continue learning more and more about my job.
The infinitive of purpose

What do you already know about the **infinitive of purpose**? Tell your teacher!

We went to the coast for a week **to relax**.
We use infinitives to show purpose or why we are doing something.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>what we are doing</th>
<th>why we are doing it</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I read a book...</td>
<td>to relax.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You play football...</td>
<td>to have fun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She goes to the gym...</td>
<td>to get more exercise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We need more money...</td>
<td>to pay our rent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They travel around the world...</td>
<td>to meet new people and to learn new languages.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Infinitives of purpose

- Infinitives of purpose tell the reason why we are doing something.

She started volunteering at the hospital to meet more people and to help others.
We can use the infinitive of purpose with a main verb in any tense.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>main verb tense</th>
<th>main verb</th>
<th>infinitive of purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>present simple</td>
<td>I watch news on TV...</td>
<td>to keep up with current events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>past simple</td>
<td>I went to university...</td>
<td>to get an education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>present continuous</td>
<td>I am working hard...</td>
<td>to earn a promotion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>present perfect</td>
<td>I have gone to Paris...</td>
<td>to see the Louvre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>future</td>
<td>I will go to St. Petersburg...</td>
<td>to visit the Hermitage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- We can use the infinitive of purpose before or after the main verb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>after main verb</th>
<th>before main verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I read a book to relax in the evening.</td>
<td>To relax in the evening, I read a book.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We left work early to avoid traffic.</td>
<td>To avoid traffic, we left work early.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You’ll need to plan extra time to view the whole exhibit.</td>
<td>To view the whole exhibit, you’ll need to plan extra time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. They ride a bike to get fresh air.
2. I have been to the zoo to see a giraffe.
3. He used sand to build a castle.
4. We met to discuss the budget.
5. She is drinking water to cool off.
6. I will use my credit card to pay for that.
Complete the sentences

1. I went to China...
   a. to have dinner.

2. To get to work on time,
   b. to help my family pay their bills.

3. We are meeting at the restaurant...
   c. you need to leave home at seven o’clock.

4. To enjoy this beautiful day,
   d. to walk on the Great Wall.

5. I will look for a job...
   e. we are going to the park after work.
Fill in the blanks

1. To ___________ the door, turn the doorknob.
2. To pass the test, you ___________ a score of 60% or higher.
3. We ___________ packing our furniture to move to a new house.
4. They want to save more money ___________ travel more often.
5. She drove all the way to the beach to ___________ the ocean.
6. To learn English, I ___________ going to London for a month.

- are
- need
- to
- see
- open
- am
Look at the infinitives of purpose below. Make sentences about yourself!

to relax

to improve my English

to stay healthy

to save money
Additional phrases

- We can use *so as* or *in order* with the infinitive of purpose.
- These phrases don’t change the meaning.
- These phrases don’t change the structure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>main verb</th>
<th>additional phrase</th>
<th>infinitive of purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I read a book</td>
<td>in order</td>
<td>to relax.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am working hard</td>
<td>so as</td>
<td>to earn a promotion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We can make the infinitive of purpose negative by using these additional phrases and **not**.

- **Not** always goes after the additional phrase and before the infinitive of purpose.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>main verb</th>
<th>additional phrase + not</th>
<th>infinitive of purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I read a book</td>
<td>in order <strong>not</strong></td>
<td>to fall asleep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am working hard</td>
<td>so as <strong>not</strong></td>
<td>to get fired.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Negatives

- Not always comes after the additional phrase and before the **infinitive of purpose**:

Please be quiet when you come in so as **not to wake** my daughter.
We can use the negative infinitive of purpose before or after the main verb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>after main verb</th>
<th>before main verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I read a book <em>in order not</em> to fall asleep at night.</td>
<td><em>In order not</em> to fall asleep at night, I read a book.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am working hard <em>so as not</em> to get fired.</td>
<td><em>So as not</em> to get fired, I am working hard.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Are these infinitives of purpose positive or negative?

1. I’m going to Japan in order to eat a lot of sushi.  
   - POSITIVE  
   - NEGATIVE

2. So as not to eat too much sushi, I’m only getting one roll.  
   - POSITIVE  
   - NEGATIVE

3. In order not to lose my passport, I’m packing it in my suitcase.  
   - POSITIVE  
   - NEGATIVE

4. So as to get a better job, I’m going back to university for another degree.  
   - POSITIVE  
   - NEGATIVE

5. I’m going to study hard in order not to get poor grades.  
   - POSITIVE  
   - NEGATIVE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Translation</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to watch watching</td>
<td>Let’s go to the cinema _________ a film tonight.</td>
<td>That sounds fun. In _________ to get scared, we won’t see a horror movie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laugh to laugh</td>
<td>OK. We’re not seeing a horror movie. We can watch a comedy _________ a lot instead.</td>
<td>Good idea. Do you want to check the schedule _________ which films are playing tonight?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as not to not as to</td>
<td>So _________ miss the film, I checked yesterday. They’re showing comedies every night to draw in a younger crowd.</td>
<td>Great. _________ time for dinner in a nice restaurant first, we should see a later film.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in order to in order not to</td>
<td>Sure, there’s a showing at 9 o’clock. Let’s take the subway _________ avoid traffic.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- In order not to: To avoid doing something.
- To have: To enjoy or experience something.
Answer these questions with an infinitive of purpose

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Why did you go to university?</td>
<td>I went to university to earn a degree and to get a better job.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why do you work hard at your job?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why do you read books?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why do you want a bigger house?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why do you exercise?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why are you learning English?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why are you going on holiday?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why do you go into the city?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We’re going on holiday!

Talk about your plans for an upcoming holiday using the present continuous for future arrangements and the infinitive of purpose.

Where are you going? Why are you going there?

How are you getting there? Why are you using that form of transportation?

What are you seeing while you’re there? Why are you seeing those places or things?
Guess what I’m doing!

I’m doing this to lose weight and to get in shape.

Describe why you’re doing something without saying what you’re doing. Have your teacher or a classmate guess what you’re doing. Keep going by taking turns and describing different activities.

Are you exercising?
You have made friends with an alien! However, life on Earth is very confusing for him. Can you explain why people are doing the activities in the boxes below? Use infinitives of purpose!

- sleeping
- going on holiday
- playing tennis
- going to work
- reading a book
- learning English
Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

Reflect on the goals
Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson. What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?

If you have time, go over the most difficult slides again.
Answer key

Exercise p. 18
1. positive 2. negative 3. negative 4. positive 5. negative

Exercise p. 17
1. open, 2. need, 3. are, 4. to, 5. see, 6. am

Exercise p. 11
1d, 2c, 3a, 4e, 5b

Exercise p. 10
1e, 2f, 3c, 4d, 5a, 6b

Exercise p. 9
Homework
1. He bought flowers _______ to his wife.
2. She wrote a card _______ thank you for the gift.
3. They went out to dinner _______ their anniversary.
4. He ordered a large meal _______ hungry during the film.
5. She ordered a salad _______ gain weight by eating too much.
6. They enjoyed the film and then walked home _______ more time to talk with each other.
Go back to the text on page 3 and find examples of the grammar topic of this lesson in it. Write them down.

Copy parts of the text that are examples of topic of the lesson.
Sentences in the first person plural

Choose five sentences from this lesson. Copy them and write them about you and a friend.

Examples:

I don’t understand
→ My friend Maria and I don’t understand.

He has a book
→ We have a book

...
Easy or difficult?

Is the grammar topic of this lesson... easy or difficult?
Write down what is difficult for you and what is easy.
Homework answer key

Exercise p. 27

1. to give 2. to say 3. to celebrate 4. so as not to be 5. in order not to 6. in order to have
Who are we?

Why learn English online?

What kinds of English classes do we offer?

Who are our English teachers?

How do our English certificates work?

We also have a language blog!